

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00

USIA-06 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 PM-04

/031 W

-----140828Z 089629 /23-12

R 121424Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3159

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANGUA 2231

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ESTC, PARM, MMOL, NU

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL SALE OF SMALL-ARMS AMMUNITION TO NICARAGUA

REF: MANAGUA 1564

1. RIGOBERTO TORUNO, WHO IS HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND A VALUABLE EMB CONTACT IN OBTAINING GON SUPPORT FOR USG POSITIONS IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA, INFORMALLY APPROACHED EMBOFF MAY 11 CONCERNING SUBJECT. RIGOBERTO'S FATHER, SAMUEL TORUNO V., OWNS LOCALS SALES FIRM WHICH, INTER ALIA, ARRANGES FOR IMPORT OF SMALL-ARM AMMUNITION AND HUNTING EQUIPMENT. RIGOBERTO GAVE EMBOFF COPY OF LETTER DATED MAY 6 FROM JONAS AIRCRAFT AND ARMS CO., INC. OF 120 WALL STREET, N.Y., N.Y. IN WHICH LATTER SUGGESTED THAT TORUNO HAVE GON APPROACH EMB TO OBTAIN VALIDATION OF TWO PENDING LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT OF AMMUNITION TO NICARAGUA. TORUNO, INSTEAD, MADE THIS INFORMAL APPROACH.

2. THE APPLICATIONS ARE STATE DEPT. CASE NUMBERS 33743, DATED MARCH 2, AND 34157, DATED MARCH 9. ACCORDING TO TORUNO, THE APPLICATIONS ARE FOR SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION WHICH, UNDER NICARAGUAN LAW, CAN ONLY BE IMPORTED BY THE GUARDIA NACIONAL, BUT WHICH ARE, IN FACT, DESTINED FOR RESALE TO AUTHORIZED GUN HOLDERS FROM AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC THROUGH NATIONAL GUARD-CONTROLLED COMMERCIAL

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OUTLETS.

3. TORUNO ASKED TO KNOW THE PRESENT STATUS OF THESE TRANSACTIONS. HE ADDED THAT, IF THE USG REFUSES TO GRANT THE REQUISITE EXPORT LICENSES, THEN HIS FATHER'S FIRM WILL HAVE TO SEEK OTHER SUPPLIERS, ALTHOUGH U.S. EQUIPMENT SOURCES ARE PREFERRED.

4. AS INDICATED IN EARLIER REQUEST FOR FAVORABLE ACTION ON THIS TRANSACTION (REFTEL), EMB BELIEVES REQUESTS FOR EXPORT LICENSES FOR NORMAL COMMERCIAL SALES OF LIGHT ARMS AND AMMUNITION SHOULD BE GRANTED. FURTHERMORE, EMB BELIEVES THAT AMMUNITION REQUESTED IN THESE TWO CASES, RANGING FROM 0.22 CALIBER TO 0.45 CALIBER AND AMOUNTING TO FEWER THAN 250,000 ROUNDS VALUED AT LESS THAN \$20,000 IS NOT OF A NATURE OR SIZE TO WARRANT DENIAL OF EXPORT LICENSES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMB REQUESTS THAT FAVORABLE DECISION ON THESE LICENSE APPLICATIONS BE GRANTED PROMPTLY. SHOULD, HOWEVER, APPLICATIONS BE DENIED, EMB WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF USG POLICY REGARDING COMMERCIAL ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS SALES TO NICARAGUA SO THAT WE MAY RESPOND ACCORDINGLY TO FUTURE INQUIRIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, EXPORT LICENSES, BUSINESS FIRMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D770170-0782
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 MANAGUA 1564
Retention: 0
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Review Date: 01-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
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